AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A character input device for a mobile terminal including a plurality of keys, each key being assigned characters of at least two different character types, wherein the mobile terminal is previously set in a character input mode of one of the at least two different character types, while characters of another of the at least two different character types can be selectively input, said character input device comprising:

at least one temporary mode conversion key included in the mobile terminal;

a memory for storing character codes of the at least two different character types assigned to each of the plurality of keys; and

a controller for selecting one of the previously set character input mode and a temporary character mode, based on an input of the temporary mode conversion key, and reading out and recognizing character codes of the at least two different character types from the memory according to the plurality of keys input and the selected character input mode.

2. (Original) The character input device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller recognizes input characters as converted characters in the temporary character mode while the temporary mode conversion key is held, and recognizes the input characters as characters in the previously set character input mode when the temporary mode conversion key is released.

3. (Original) The character input device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller recognizes input characters as converted characters in the temporary character mode when the temporary mode conversion key is pressed, and recognizes the input characters as characters in the previously set character input mode when the temporary mode conversion key is pressed

again.

4. (Original) The character input device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the previously set character mode can be changed into another character mode to input another character of said at least two character types.

5. (Original) A method for inputting characters of a plurality of character types using a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

when a controller recognizes that a temporary mode conversion key is held down while inputting characters, converting a character input mode to a temporary character input mode; and

when the controller recognizes that the temporary mode conversion key is released, returning the character input mode to a previously set character input mode.

6. (Original) A method for inputting characters of a plurality of character types using a mobile terminal, comprising the steps of:

when a controller recognizes that a temporary mode conversion key is pushed while inputting characters, converting a character input mode to a temporary character input mode; and

when the controller recognizes that the temporary mode conversion key is pushed again, returning the character input mode to a previously set language character input mode.

7. (New) The character input device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller recognizes input characters as converted characters in an upper case English character mode while a first temporary mode conversion key is held, and recognizes input characters as

converted characters in a lower case English character mode while a second temporary mode conversion key is held.